

**Abstract of the Honor Council**  
**Case 11, Fall 2016**  
**January 21, 2017**

**Members Present:**

Katie Jensen (presiding), Alex Metcalf (clerk), Sofia Yi, Ryan Carlson, Natalie Swanson, Jacob Reinhardt

**Ombuds:** Aaron Shaw

**Letter of Accusation:**

The Honor Council received a letter accusing Student A of plagiarizing summaries for a lower level BIOC course. The Chair read the Letter of Accusation aloud in full.

**Evidence Submitted:**

- Letter of Accusation
- Student A's written statement
- Student Submissions
- Instructions
- Articles
- Clarification from Professor
- Syllabus

**Plea:**

Student A pled "in violation".

**Testimony:**

The student stated that he believed he was "In Violation" when he wrote the article. He said he did not plagiarize with malicious intent. Upon questioning, the student stated that he was instructed to cite sources in APA format, and was asked to provide full references. According to him, he attempted to avoid direct copying in his paraphrasing, but he was not sure that he did not copy.

In his closing statement, the student reiterated that he did not write the assignments with the intent of plagiarizing. He then thanked the Council.

**Verdict Deliberations:**

Council members believed that a preponderance of the evidence supported that a violation occurred because of the evidence presented and the student's testimony.

Vote #1: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that a violation occurred?

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

The Council then discussed whether or not Student A committed the violation. The Council saw no reason to decide otherwise.

Vote #2: Does a preponderance of the evidence support that Student A is “In Violation?”

Yes: 6

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Penalty Deliberations:**

Council members opened by discussing mitigating circumstances. Council members saw no aggravating factors. Council members felt that mitigation was inappropriate, due to the nature of the assignment. Based on the weight of the assignment and the CPS, the Council voted to assign a one letter grade reduction.

Vote #3: What is the appropriate penalty for Student A?

F in the course and 3 semesters of suspension: 0

F in the course and 2 semesters of suspension: 0

F in the course and 1 semester of suspension: 0

F in the course: 0

3 letter grade reduction: 0

2 letter grade reduction: 0

1 letter grade reduction: 6

Letter of Reprimand 0

Abstentions: 0

**Decision:**

The Honor Council thus finds Student A “In Violation” of the Honor Code and recommends that he receive a one letter grade reduction.

Time of testimony and deliberations: 27 minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Metcalf  
Clerk